

Hanford High student wins congressional art contest

Hanford High student Nicole Keller won the fourth annual art competition sponsored by Congressman Doc Hastings for central Washington high school students.

A reception and art show on April 5 at the Office of River Protection building in Richland's Stevens Center honored several local students who participated in the nationwide art competition, "An Artistic Discovery," coordinated by the U.S. House of Representatives.

"The competition allows our students a special venue to display their talents as artists," said Rep. Hastings. "The quality of the artwork submitted by central Washington students amazes me, and this year's entries were outstanding."

Keller's abstract drawing, "Life in Hand," was selected as the winning entry by a panel of independent local judges experienced in the arts. Keller's drawing will be framed and displayed for one year in the U.S. Capitol, where it will compete with winning artwork by students from other congressional districts across the nation.

Entries by central Washington students were on display in the lobby of the ORP headquarters building the week of the competition. ORP prime contractor CH2M HILL Hanford Group sponsored the reception.

"CHG and ORP employees commented all week long how much they have enjoyed seeing the artwork here in the lobby," said CHG President and General Manager Ed Aromi. "We too were impressed with the talent on display, and the exhibit has enriched our time spent at work."

In addition to Keller's award, the following students were selected for special recognition by the judges: Logan Smith of Quincy High for "United We Stand," Jamie Billetdeaux of Hanford High for "Toys," Jeff Serell of Hanford High for "Gone Fishing," Heather Wright of Hanford High for "Ethel's Bicycle," and Vanessa Belle Johnson of Richland High for "Doc Hastings."

Rep. Hastings' office received 97 entries submitted by students representing those schools as well as Rivers Edge Alternative School in Richland and Okanogan, Kennewick, Almira/Coulee/Hartline, Kamiakin, and Cascade (Leavenworth) High Schools. ♦



Exhibit winner Nicole Keller (left) poses with Ed Aromi, president and general manager of CH2M HILL Hanford Group, the corporate sponsor for the competition, and her mother, Joan Adams of Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Aromi is holding Keller's abstract drawing, "Life in Hand," which will be displayed for a year in the U.S. Capitol Building and will compete with artwork from congressional districts across the nation.